
Subject:

Email from Joel Masser

From: Joel Masser [<mailto:joelmasser@hotmail.com>]**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2013 7:55 PM**To:** commentletters**Subject:** Substitute Environmental Document for Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Dear Chairwoman Marcus and Board Members,

Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed river water has flowed through the watersheds into the delta for many thousands of years. The systems of plant and animal life that we depend on for our lives and livelihoods evolved based on this water. Changes to this system risk serious damage or even collapse of the environment that supports our economy. We have made changes but have not improved on mother nature's management plan. In fact, we have caused much harm that we need to undo.

We have dammed the rivers and diverted too much water for farming and cities. This has damaged the river ecosystems, wildlife, commercial and sport fishing, and recreation opportunities, and the tourism industry. Worst of all, water quality is degraded due to reduced flow and agricultural runoff. Ever-increasing irrigation is a losing game plan. We need to make a transition to an agricultural model that is more sustainable and self-sufficient.

We need to restore the flows in the rivers and through the delta at a bare minimum to a level of 50% of unimpaired flows. More would be better. More water in the rivers is actually better for the California economy because it keeps the natural system that we depend on in balance.

I care about California's future but I am afraid we are on a dangerous path of mismanaging our water resources. I urge you to support flows of at least 50% of unimpaired flows throughout the year as the best way to meet the goals of ecosystem protection and maintaining a reliable supply of clean water.

Sincerely yours,
Joel Masser
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